

Appl. No. 10/600,774
Atty. Docket No. 9281
Amdt. dated March 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising,
 - a. a fluid permeable facing layer having a first elastic modulus;
 - b. an absorbent core joined to the facing layer, the absorbent core having a second elastic modulus;
 - c. wherein at equal strain from about 1% to about 5% the first elastic modulus is greater than the second elastic modulus and wherein the facing layer is joined to the absorbent core at substantially the entirety of their respective interfacial surfaces; and
 - d. a fluid impermeable backsheet joined to the facing layer.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein a ratio of the first elastic modulus to the second elastic modulus from about 6:1 to about 2000:1.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has an effective width from about 20 mm to about 80 mm.
4. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the density of the absorbent core is between about 0.050 g/cm³ and about 0.15 g/cm³.
5. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the facing layer has a caliper and the absorbent core has a second caliper, and wherein the ratio between the facing layer caliper and the absorbent core caliper is from about 1:3 to about 1:20.
6. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent article is a catamenial device.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a body facing surface, a width and a lateral centerline, the absorbent article being deformed convexly with respect to the body facing surface when sufficiently loaded by opposing forces across the width parallel to the lateral centerline.

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9. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.
10. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 9, wherein said topsheet is an apertured, formed film topsheet.
11. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 9, wherein said secondary topsheet is a nonwoven web.
12. The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said facing layer has an elastic modulus from about 6 kPa to about 700 kPa.
13. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent core has an elastic modulus from about 0.3 kPa to about 2.0 kPa.
14. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet layer joined to the topsheet.
15. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising a pair of deep-embossed channels, the channels defining an effective width.
16. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 15, wherein said effective width is from about 20 mm to about 50 mm.
17. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising,
 - a. a fluid permeable facing layer having a first tangent modulus;
 - b. an absorbent core joined to the facing layer, the absorbent core having a second tangent modulus, and wherein the facing layer is joined to the absorbent core at substantially the entirety of their respective interfacial surfaces;
 - c. wherein at any strain from about 1% to about 50% the first tangent modulus is greater than the second tangent modulus.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 17, wherein the facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.

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20. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 17, further comprising a pair of deep-embossed channels, the channels defining an effective width.